MINUTES

OF THE

SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA,

AT THEIR

THIRTY-FIRST SESSIONS,

HELD IN

FAYETTEVILLE,

November 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th,

1844.

FAYETTEVILLE:

PRINTED BY EDWARD J. HALE.

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THIRTY-FIRST SESSIONS

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SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Synod met, in the Presbyterian Church, in the Town of Fayetteville, in the County of Cumberland, and State of North Carolina, on Wednesday, the 6th of November, 1844, at 7 o'clock, P. M., according to adjournment.

In the absence of the Moderator, a sermon was delivered, by The Rev'd Joseph Mahon, a member of the Synod of New Jersey, from *Isa.* xxxiv. 16. first clause.—"*Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read.*"

Constituted with prayer.

PRESENT,

Of the Presbytery of Orange,—The Rev'd Messrs. Robert Burwell, John A. Gretter, Daniel Strattan, Edward Hines, Jacob Doll, and Anderson G. Hughes; with Messrs. Jesse Brown, and William H. Cumming, Ruling-Elders:

Of the Presbytery of Concord,—The Rev'd Messrs. Daniel A. Penick, Cyrus Johnston, William A. Hall, Albertus Leander Watts, John S. McCutchan, James D. Hall, James E. Morrison, James M. H. Adams, John M. M. Caldwell, John M. Wilson, James F. W. Freeman, Elijah F. Rockwell, H. B. Cunningham, and Walter W. Pharr; with Mr. John F. Phifer, Ruling-Elder: and

Of the Presbytery of Fayetteville,—The Rev'd Messrs. John McIntyre, Simeon Colton, Colin McIver, Samuel Paisley, William Brobston, William N. Peacock, Adam Gilchrist, Hector McLean, Evander McNair, Hector McNeill, Arch'd Smith, John R. McIntosh, Hugh McLaurin, Hugh Munroe, Malcom Conoley, Arch'd Baker, Neill McKay, and Colin Shaw; with The Hon'ble Henry Potter, and Messrs. Allan McCormick, George McIntosh, and Hayes W. Beatty, Ruling-Elders.

ABSENT,

Of the Presbytery of Orange,—The Rev'd Messrs. William Paisley, Ezekiel B. Currie, and John H. Pickard; The Rev'd John Witherspoon, D. D. L. L. D.; The Rev'd Messrs. Elisha Mitchell, Eli W. Caruthers, Arch'd D. Montgomery, Jesse Rankin, and Thomas Lynch; The Rev'd Nehemiah H. Harding, D. D.; The Rev'd Alex'r Wilson, D. D.; and The Rev'd Messrs. George W. Ferrill, Drury Lacy, George D. McCuen, Thomas R. Owen, James Phillips, Daniel G. Doak, John C. Rankin, William N. Mebane, S. J. P. Anderson, and John Paisley:

Of the Presbytery of Concord,—The Rev'd John Robinson, D. D.; The Rev'd Messrs. John B. Davies, and Walter S. Pharr; The Rev'd Robert H. Morrison, D. D.; and The Rev'd Messrs. Stephen Frontis, Samuel Williamson, Henry N. Pharr, John Le Roy Davies, Andrew Y. Lockridge, Daniel Lindley, Thomas P. Johnstone, William N. Morrison, An-

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gus Johnston, Frederick K. Nash, Lemuel Murray, James Kerr, Samuel B. O. Wilson, and John E. McPherson: and

Of the Presbytery of Fayetteville —The Rev'd Messrs. Robert Tate, Allan McDougald, William W. Eells, and Theophilus G. Potts.

The annual reports from the several Presbyteries composing this Synod, were produced; and are as follow; viz:

1. "The Presbytery of Orange report to the Synod of North Carolina, that they consist of 27 ministers: and have, under their care, 40 congregations, 1 licentiate, and 8 candidates;—that, since the date of their last report, they have installed The Rev'd Anderson G. Hughes, Pastor of the United congregations of Haw-fields and Cross-roads;—ordained The Rev'd William C. Sutton, Minister of the Gospel, and installed him Pastor of Little-river church;—ordained The Rev'd Edmund C. Bittinger, and installed him Pastor of the congregation of Washington;—installed The Rev'd John A. Gretter, Pastor of the congregation of Greensborough; lost, by death, The Rev'd George D. McCuen; and permitted The Rev'd Arch'd D. Montgomery to resign the Pastoral charge of the congregation of Spring Hill." "By order of the Presbytery."

(Signed,) "NEHEMIAH H. HARDING, Stated Clerk."

"Lewisburg, 2nd Nov'r, 1844."

2. "The Presbytery of Concord report to the Synod of North Carolina, that they consist of 31 Ministers; and have, under their care, 52 congregations, 3 licentiates, and 4 candidates;—that, on the 15th of December, 1843, they lost, by death, The Rev'd John Robinson, D. D., late Pastor of Poplar-Tent church;—that, on the 4th day of April, 1844, they dismissed from under their care, Mr. Charles R. Smith, a licentiate, to place himself under the care of the Presbytery of Georgia; that, on the same day, they received, under their care, Mr. George M. Gibbs, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Fayetteville;—that on the 5th day of April, 1844, they dismissed The Rev'd Angus Johnston, to connect himself with the Presbytery of Chickasaw;—that, on the 31st day of May, 1844, they ordained, as an Evangelist, to the work of the Gospel ministry, The Rev'd George M. Gibbs;—that, on the 10th day of October, 1844, they dismissed, from under their care, Mr. John L. McIver, a licentiate, to place himself under the care of the Presbytery of Harmony; and that, on the 12th day of October, 1844, they licensed Mr. Thomas E. Davis, to preach the gospel."

"By order of the Presbytery."

(Signed,) "STEPHEN FRONTIS, Stated Clerk."

3. "The Presbytery of Fayetteville report to the Synod of North Carolina, that they consist of 20 Ministers; and have, under their care, 45 congregations, 5 licentiates, and 7 candidates;—that, on the 13th of April, 1844, they licensed Messrs. Angus C. McNeill, Andrew McMillan, and Peter McNab, to preach the gospel;—that, on the 24th of August, 1844, they lost, by death, The Rev'd Theophilus G. Potts;—that, on the 19th of October, 1844, they lost, by death, The Rev'd Allan McDougald;—and that, on this, the 6th of Nov'r, 1844, they licensed Mr. Hector McAllister, to preach the gospel."

"By order of the Presbytery."

(Signed,) "COLIN McIVER, Stated Clerk."

"Fayetteville, 6th Nov'r, 1844."

The Rev'd William C. Sutton, as above reported, by the Presbytery of Orange, being present, took his seat, as a member of Synod.

The Rev'd Simeon Colton, was chosen Moderator; and The Rev'd Messrs. Robert Burwell, and James M. H. Adams, were appointed Temporary Clerks.

The Rev'd William H. Foote, a member of the Synod of Virginia, and The Rev'd Joseph Mahon, a member of the Synod of New Jersey, being present, were invited to sit, with this Synod, as Corresponding members.

Adjourned to meet, in the Session-room of this church, on to-morrow, at 10 o'clock, A. M. Closed with prayer.

THURSDAY, 7th Nov'r, 1844.

Synod met, according to adjournment. Present as on last evening. Opened with prayer. The minutes of last evening and of the last Stated Sessions, were read.

The Rev'd Messrs. Drury Lacy and James Kerr appeared in Synod; and having assigned satisfactory reasons for their absence on last evening, took their seats.

Mr. Daniel McMillan, a Ruling-Elder from the Presbytery of Fayetteville, appeared in Synod; and took his seat, as a member.

The Rev'd Messrs. William A. Hall, John S. McCutchan, John M. Wilson, James Kerr, John McIntyre, Simeon Colton, William Brobston, John R. McIntosh, Malcom Conoley and Colin Shaw, assigned the reasons of their absence, from the last Stated Sessions of this Synod.

The following committees were appointed; viz:

1. Of Bills and Overtures,—The Rev'd Messrs. Daniel A. Penick, John A. Gretter, and John R. McIntosh; and Messrs. John F. Phifer, Jesse Brown, and Hayes W. Beatty:

2. To review the records of the Presbytery of Orange,—The Rev'd John M. M. Caldwell, and Mr. George McIntosh:

3. To review the records of the Presbytery of Concord,—The Rev'd Evander McNair, and Mr. William A. Cumming:

4. To review the records of the Presbytery of Fayetteville,—The Rev'd Cyrus Johnston, and Mr. John F. Phifer:

5. To take charge of such written statements on the progress of religion in the several churches under the care of this Synod, as may be presented by the members; and to prepare a connected summary of their contents, to be submitted to Synod, during the present Sessions,—The Rev'd Messrs. Drury Lacy and Cyrus Johnston:

6. To inspect the printed minutes of the last General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, and make report of such articles therein, as may be found to claim the attention of Synod. The Rev'd Messrs. Edward Hines and Evander McNair: and

7. To make arrangements for the various religious exercises to be observed, during the present Sessions of Synod,—The Rev'd Adam Gilchrist, and The Hon ble Henry Potter.

A letter from The Rev'd John Le Roy Davies, assigning reasons for his absence from the last and present Sessions of this Synod, was received and read; and the reasons of his absence were sustained.

On receiving information of a legacy of some value, left to this Synod, by the last Will and Testament of Mr. A. Lorantz, late of Iredell County, North Carolina, deceased, The Rev'd Messrs. John M. Wilson and James M. H. Adams, and The Hon'ble Henry Potter, were appointed a committee, to consider, whether any, and if any, what measure, or measures, ought to be adopted, by this Synod, for obtaining legal possession of the said legacy; with direction to report, during the present Sessions.

The Stated Clerk laid before Synod, a communication from the Synod of Virginia, which was referred to The Rev'd Messrs. Watts, Burwell, and Caldwell, with direction to report thereon, during the present Sessions.

Synod proceeded to fill up the existing vacancies, in the Board of Directors and Electors of the Union Theological Seminary; and, for this purpose, the following persons were appointed; viz: In the room of The Rev'd Arch'd D. Montgomery, whose resignation has been accepted, The Rev'd John A. Gretter was appointed a Director of the said Seminary, to serve, for the ensuing 2 years: Mr. Nicholas C. Read, whose term of service has expired, was re-elected, as a Director of the said Seminary, to serve, for the ensuing 4 years: In the room of The Rev'd Messrs. William N. Peacock and Jesse Rankin, whose term of service has expired, The Rev'd Messrs. Drury Lacy and Arch'd Baker, were appointed Directors of the said Seminary, to serve for the ensuing 4 years: In the room of Mr. William Baird, whose resignation has been accepted, Mr. Jesse Brown was appointed a Director of the said Seminary, to serve for the ensuing year: and, the appointment of The Rev'd Drury Lacy a member of the Board of Directors, having created a vacancy in the Board of Electors, The Rev'd Alex'r Wilson, D. D., to supply that vacancy, was appointed a member of the Board of Electors, to serve, for the ensuing 2 years.

The Annual report of the Board of Directors of the Union Theological Seminary, was received; and, being read, was approved; and ordered to be recorded; and is as follows; viz:

"The Board of Directors of the Union Theological Seminary having failed to meet, the Directors present respectfully report to the Synods of Virginia and North Carolina, that there have been, connected with the Seminary, 21 Students, during the year just expired. Of these, the following 6 were admitted, during the winter term; viz: James M. Rice, Graduate of Hampden Sydney College, and Candidate of the Presbytery of West Hanover,—Alex'r L. Hogshead, Graduate of Washington College, Virginia, and Candidate of the Presbytery of Greenbrier;—J. Henry Smith, Graduate of Washington College, Virginia, and Candidate of the Presbytery of Lexington;—James M. Humphreys, Student of Washington College, Virginia, and Candidate of the Presbytery of Lexington;—David C. Humphreys, Student of Washington College, Virginia, and Candidate of the Presbytery of Lexington;—and Cyrus K. Caldwell, Graduate of Davidson College, North Carolina, and Candidate of the Presbytery of Concord.

"The Treasurer of the Board having been indisposed, and absent from home, the usual report of the state of the finances was not presented; but, from an examination of the books, as far as they are able to ascertain, the deficiency arising from the failure of the income of the permanent fund,

has been reduced, within the last two years, from $1559, to about $800. The assessments for meeting the anticipated deficiency, levied on the churches by the two Synods, remain, to a great extent, unpaid. It is hoped that there may be further receipts, from this source, at the approaching meetings of these bodies.

"The Directors feel impelled, by a sense of duty to the Seminary and to the churches, to call the attention of the two Synods, to the very small number of young men within their bounds, who are devoting themselves to the work of the Ministry. After careful investigation, it has been ascertained, that, including those who are connected with other Seminaries, there are not more than twenty young men from the States of Virginia and North Carolina, who are now in a course of Theological training. In the nature of the case, the Synods cannot look beyond their own bounds, for their supply of ministers; and unless the number of young men in the churches, who are willing to serve God in the ministry, can be greatly increased, it is impossible to meet the urgent calls, both at home and abroad, or even the wants of our own territory. The Directors, therefore, express the hope, that it may be deemed expedient by the Synods, to take such action in the premises as may be deemed most appropriate, for calling the attention of Pastors and churches within their bounds, to this important subject.

"The report of the examining committee, for the Session which has just closed, was highly satisfactory, in regard to the fidelity with which the Professors of the Seminary had discharged their duties, and the progress which the students appeared to have made in their studies. The Directors, however, feel called upon, to state to the Synods, that, in a few instances, there seems to have been a great deficiency in the preliminary education of the students, and especially as regards the Greek language; and to suggest the propriety of submitting to the Presbyteries, the importance of adopting some means of removing this evil.

"It may be proper, however, to observe, that the class which has last entered the Seminary have been more thorough than has been usual, in their preparatory course. All of them have taken a regular course, at some of our Colleges; and apparently with credit to themselves."

(Signed,) "ANDREW HART, Secretary to the Board."

The preceding report was committed to The Rev'd Messrs. Lacy and Burwell, to report thereon, during the present Sessions.

Resolved, That the presentation of written statements on the progress of religion in the several churches under the care of this Synod, be the order of the day for to-morrow, at 10 o'clock, A. M.; and that the committee which was this morning appointed for the purpose, then take charge of said statements, and prepare a connected summary of their contents, to be submitted to Synod, during the present Sessions.

The Rev'd William N. Peacock and Mr. Jesse Brown, were appointed a Committee to audit the account of the Treasurer of this Synod.

The Rev'd Messrs. Gretter, Lacy, and Baker, were appointed a Committee to consider, whether any, and if any, what measures ought to be adopted by this Synod, for the more extensive circulation of the books and tracts issued by the General Assembly's Board of Publication.

The committee appointed, at the last Stated Sessions, to receive histor-

ical accounts of particular churches, as materials for a history of the Presbyterian church, in North Carolina, made a verbal report, which was accepted; and it was determined, that the serious consideration of the subject of collecting suitable materials for a history of the Presbyterian church in the State of North Carolina, be made the order of the day, for to-morrow, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

The following minute was submitted; and being duly considered, was adopted, viz:

On reading the minutes of the last Stated Sessions, an error was discovered, in a minute which is found recorded on Page 128, line 12th. *Resolved, therefore,* That the said error be now corrected by substituting for the words "*Two-thirds,*" as there recorded, the words, "*One-third,*" which were the words originally designed to be used, in that place.

The Rev'd William I. Langdon of the Methodist Episcopal church, an Agent for the American Bible Society, and for the Bible Society of North Carolina, was, by invitation, heard before the Synod, on the subject of his Agency.

The Rev'd Messrs. Penick and Baker, and Mr. Jesse Brown, were appointed a Committee, to take into consideration, the Bible-cause; and report thereon, during the present Sessions.

Messrs. Daniel McLean, Henry Elliott, and John McKinnon, Ruling-Elders from the Presbytery of Fayetteville, appeared in Synod, and took their seats, as members.

The Rev'd Joseph Mahon, appearing before this Synod, as an Agent for the General Assembly's Board of Missions, it was made the order of the day, for Saturday, at 10 o'clock, A. M., to hear him, on the subject of his Agency.

Adjourned, to meet, at this place, on to-morrow, at 10 o'clock, A. M. Closed with prayer.

FRIDAY, 8th November, 1844.

Synod met, according to adjournment. Present as above. Opened with prayer. The minutes of yesterday were read.

The Rev'd George M. Gibbs appeared in Synod; and, having assigned satisfactory reasons for the lateness of his arrival, took his seat.

A letter from The Rev'd Robert H. Morrison, D. D., assigning reasons for his absence from the present Sessions of this Synod, was received and read; and the reasons of his absence were sustained.

Agreeably to the order of the day, written statements, on the progress of religion in the several churches under the care of this Synod, were produced; and put into the hands of the Committee that was appointed to prepare a connected summary of their contents.

A letter from The Rev'd Stephen Frontis, assigning reasons for his absence from the present Sessions of this Synod, was received and read; and the reasons of his absence were sustained.

The Rev'd Andrew Y. Lockridge appeared in Synod; and having assigned satisfactory reasons for the lateness of his arrival, took his seat.

A letter was received, from The Rev'd Thomas Chalmers, D. D., of

the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, acknowledging the receipt of this Synod's Act, in reference to the said Church;—thanking this Synod, in his own behalf, and in behalf of his brethren, for the favourable sentiments expressed in the said Act, and having reference to a forth-coming communication from the Committee of Foreign Correspondence, on the same subject.

A communication was received from The Rev'd William A. McDowell, D. D., on the subject of domestic Missions; which, being read, was referred to The Rev'd Messrs. Wilson, Rockwell, Burwell, McNair, and McIntosh; The Hon. Henry Potter, and Mr. Jesse Brown, with direction to make report thereon, during the present Sessions; embracing in their report, an account of the present exertions of the several Presbyteries composing this Synod, in the Domestic Missionary cause.

The committees to whom the records of the Presbyteries of Orange and Concord had been referred, respectively reported, that no records had been, or were likely to be, put into their hands. Whereupon, both of those committees were discharged.

The committee appointed to inspect the printed minutes of the last General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and make report of such articles therein as may be found to claim the attention of Synod, submitted the following report; viz:

"Your committee report, that they have attended to the duty assigned to them; and would recommend, to the consideration of Synod,

"1. The action of the General Assembly, upon the subject of a more thorough course of preparation, on the part of Candidates for the gospel ministry: Page 357; and

"2. The action of the General Assembly, upon the subject of the erection of houses of worship, in feeble congregations: Pages 373—375.

"Respectfully submitted."

(Signed,) "EDWARD HINES, "EVANDER McNAIR, } Committee."

After some deliberation on the above report, both the subjects therein recommended, were referred, by the Synod, to the several Presbyteries, to take such order thereon, as they may think most for edification.

The committee of Bills and Overtures submitted the following resolution; which, being read, was adopted; viz:

Resolved, That each Presbytery composing this Synod be required to present, together with its statistical report, a minute narrative, on the state of religion within its bounds; and that these Presbyterial reports be handed to the committee which may be appointed to prepare a Narrative on the state of religion within the bounds of Synod.

The following persons were appointed, to constitute, for the present, this Synod's portion of the members of the Central Board of Foreign Missions; viz: The Rev'd Messrs. Burwell and Caldwell; and Messrs. Brown and Elliott.

Synod appointed, that the Annual Sermon, on Foreign Missions, be delivered, on Sabbath evening, at 7 o'clock.

Agreeably to the order of the day, Synod spent some time in the serious consideration of the subject of collecting suitable materials for a History of the Presbyterian Church, in the State of North Carolina. The com-

mittee appointed to receive materials for such a work, in addition to the verbal report they made on yesterday, now submitted a brief written report; which, being read, was adopted; and is as follows; viz:

"Your committee report, that they have not been able to do any thing efficiently, in the good work committed to their care; and would respectfully recommend to Synod, the adoption of the following resolution; viz:

"*Resolved*, That a suitable person be chosen, by this Synod, to collect materials for, and to compile a History of the Presbyterian Church, in North Carolina."

(Signed,) "JOHN M. M. CALDWELL, } Committee."
"COLIN McIVER, }

In fulfilment of the above resolution, the Synod, by an unanimous vote, made choice of The Rev'd William H. Foote, of the Synod of Virginia, to write the desired History of the Presbyterian Church, in the State of North Carolina; and The Rev'd Messrs. McIver and Caldwell, were appointed a Committee to wait on Mr. Foote, and inform him of this choice, with direction, to report the result, in due time, to Synod.

Mr. George McIntosh obtained leave of absence, during the remaining part of the present Sessions.

Mr. Patrick Cromartie, a Ruling-Elder from the Presbytery of Fayetteville, appeared in Synod; and took his seat, as a member.

Mr. Charles Shaw, another Ruling-Elder from the same Presbytery, also appeared in Synod; and took his seat, as a member.

The committee to whom the communication from the Synod of Virginia had been referred, exhibited their report; which, being read, considered, and amended, was adopted; and is as follows; viz:

"Your committee, having given, to the communication referred to them, an attentive consideration, respectfully recommend to Synod, the adoption of the following minute; viz:

"Whereas it is greatly to be desired, that the Foreign Missionary operations, within the bounds of this Synod, should be carried on with greater efficiency; and whereas, in order to attain this object, it appears desirable, to modify, in some degree, the present system of action: *Therefore*, *Resolved*,

"1. That this Synod concur with the Synod of Virginia, in expressing the opinion, that the Central Board of Foreign Missions shall cease to exist, from and after the first day of December next.

"2. That this Synod reciprocate the feelings of kindness and christian fellowship expressed by the Synod of Virginia towards this body; and that, in future, this Synod will cheerfully unite with the Synod of Virginia, in any measures calculated to promote the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

"3. That it be, and hereby is enjoined on each of the Presbyteries composing this Synod, to elect, at each Spring meeting, a member of their body as their Agent for Foreign Missions, whose duty it shall be to attend to this subject, within the bounds of his own Presbytery, by correspondence and personal interviews with Pastors and others, and all other convenient and suitable means: that he shall especially do whatsoever he can to cause a yearly contribution to be made to this object in every congregation: that he make a written report of his proceedings to Synod, and to his Presbytery, at every Spring meeting: that he shall receive no Salary;

but, that the expense incurred in the prosecution of his Agency, shall be defrayed, out of the collections made.

"4. That it shall be the duty of the Treasurer of each Presbytery, to receive the funds collected for Foreign Missions, and transmit them, with all convenient expedition, to the Treasurer of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions.

"5. That the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions be earnestly requested to employ an Agent in our bounds as frequently as they may deem necessary; and that the members of this Synod will cordially welcome such an Agent; and aid him, in the great work of raising funds, for the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions.

"6. That, at each meeting of this Synod, there shall be held, a public meeting, in behalf of Foreign Missions.

"7. That, with humble reliance on the divine blessing, the members of this Synod will see to it, that a contribution, large or small, to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, shall, annually, be made, by their respective congregations.

"8. That our brethren, Ministers and Ruling-Elders, unfortunately absent from the present meeting, be, and they hereby are, earnestly requested to carry out the resolution immediately preceding this, in the bounds of their respective congregations.

"9. That the thanks of this Synod be presented to the present and former members of the 'Executive Committee,' the Treasurer and auditors of the Central Board of Foreign Missions, for their faithful and long continued services.

"10. That the thanks of this Synod be, and they hereby are presented, to The Rev'd William H. Foote, for his faithful services, as Secretary of the Central Board of Foreign Missions.

"Ordered, that a copy of the foregoing resolutions be forwarded, by the Stated Clerk of this Synod, to the Stated Clerk of the Synod of Virginia."

"All of which is respectfully submitted."

(Signed,) "A. L. WATTS, "R. BURWELL, "J. M. M. CALDWELL, } Committee."

The Rev'd Malcom Conoley obtained leave of absence, during the remainder of the present Sessions.

The Committee appointed to wait on The Rev'd William H. Foote, and inform him of the fact, that the Synod had chosen him to write a History of the Presbyterian Church in North Carolina, reported to Synod, Mr. Foote's willingness to undertake that work.

Synod, on being informed, that Mr. Foote had already, with no ordinary industry, collected a great variety of facts, proper to be embodied in such a history, unanimously *Resolved*,

1. That this Synod cordially approve the efforts made by The Rev'd William H. Foote, to collect materials for a History of the Presbyterian Church, in this State; and will aid him, in procuring further materials, and in disposing of the work, when it shall be completed. And,

2. That The Rev'd Messrs. McIver and Caruthers, The Rev'd Robert H. Morrison, D. D., The Hon. David L. Swain, The Hon. Henry Potter, and Dr. David T. Caldwell, be, and they hereby are appointed a

Committee, to confer with Mr. Foote, in reference to the work in which he is engaged, and to examine it, when prepared for the press.

Messrs. Daniel McLean and Daniel McMillan, obtained leave of absence, during the remainder of the present Sessions.

The committee appointed to consider and report, whether any, and if any, what measures ought to be adopted by this Synod, for the more extensive circulation of the books and tracts issued by the General Assembly's Board of Publication, exhibited their report; which, being read and considered, was adopted; and is as follows; viz:

"The committee appointed to consider and prepare some plan, by which the books of the Board of Publication may be more extensively circulated throughout the bounds of this Synod, beg leave to submit the following report.

"Your committee have felt the duty imposed upon them, to be one of high and solemn importance. Impressed with the belief, that the press is an important engine to operate upon the minds of men; and, as such, has been employed, in past time, with great effect, as well by the enemies as by the friends of truth;—fully persuaded, that a habit of reading is essential to the growth and stability of the christian character; and satisfied, that the books of our Board, are, in themselves, invaluable treasuries of that truth by which we are sanctified; they cannot avoid the conclusion, that the work of circulating these publications, claims, at our hands, prompt and efficient action. They are further confirmed in this conclusion, by the fact presented to our notice, in the last report of the Board of Publication,—that the church has not availed herself of its Agency, to an extent, in any measure, commensurate with its importance; and that, by a great number of Presbyteries, nothing has been done, in the way of disseminating these books. They feel, then,—and they are free to say so,—that something *ought to be done;*—and something *must be done;* and they trust, that they shall hear the response from every brother in this Synod, that SOMETHING SHALL BE DONE; AND THAT QUICKLY TOO.

"In considering the various plans which have been proposed for circulating these works, your committee have felt it to be due to the General Assembly, to direct their attention, first, to its resolution, passed in the Sessions of 1843; viz: *'that it be earnestly recommended to every Presbytery, or at least to every Synod, to establish a Depository which shall be their own property, by collecting, on such plan as they may deem best, a sufficient sum of money to fill the depository on the principle of cash purchase.'*

"After the most mature consideration which your committee have been able to give to this plan, they are unanimously of opinion, that it is entirely unsuited to our circumstances; and one, of which, it is impossible to avail ourselves, with any advantage. There is no point within our bounds, sufficiently accessible to all our congregations, for this purpose; and it may safely be asserted,—that the books of our Board, lying on the shelves of our depository in Philadelphia, are far more accessible to our people, than they would be, if removed, and deposited at any one or two places, in this State. Besides: Admitting that suitable places for such a depository or depositories could be found, your committee are of opinion, that even then, on such a plan, the views of the Synod would not be fully met. Our object is, to bring these works, or, at least, one or more of them, within the

reach of every member of our respective congregations. Now, it must be obvious to every one, that this object is but partially attained, by the above plan. If it were true, that men knew the truth, and sought after it, this would be sufficient. But all experience and observation prove the contrary.

"Your committee, in the prosecution of the task imposed upon them, have also taken into consideration, the plan of establishing a Library, consisting of all the publications of our Board, within the bounds of every congregation. While they regard this as eminently desirable and highly important, and would heartily rejoice to hear, that such a Library was the property of each of our congregations,—assured that the happiest results might be expected from it;—yet, they are convinced, that something more may be done. They humbly conceive, that they can point out a more excellent way; which, while it need not interfere with this, has the decided advantage, of more fully and directly meeting the wants of our people. The plan alluded to, contemplates the sending round suitable individuals, into the very bosom of our families;—that, thence, sheltered by the mighty ægis of Southern hospitality, and aided by all the tender associations connected with *home* and the domestic fire-side, they may urge these publications upon the acceptance of all; recommend them to their serious perusal; and, at the same time, accompany their presentation with solemn and affectionate conversation on the subject of religion, and with prayer. The plan is known to us all, as the system of Colportage. It has recommended itself to the minds of your committee; and, in their judgment, cannot fail to do so to the minds of this Synod, by the consideration, that, in its distinctive features, it recognises the two great leading truths, upon which, the success of all attempts to spread the gospel depends: It proposes, in obedience to the injunction of our Lord, *to 'go,'* and *'preach the gospel to every creature':* It carries the message which God has sent,—the truth which he has revealed, to every man's door; and there, throws upon him the responsibility of directly rejecting it, at his peril: And, while it does this, it holds up to our view, the scriptural assurance, that this truth, even when carried to every man, can accomplish nothing without the operation of the Holy Spirit, whose influence is invoked by prayer. This plan is further recommended by experience. It has been adopted by christians in France; and has there effected precious results; and is destined, by the blessing of God, to accomplish yet far more glorious ones: It is carried out, in our own country, by the American Tract Society, with great energy; and has, here, in our beloved land, already been attended with the most beneficial consequences.

"Under such views, your committee have felt constrained, to urge this plan upon the consideration of this body. They feel persuaded, that, if it be carried out promptly and efficiently, the great Head of the Church will not withhold his blessing. Our beloved Zion will lift up her head and rejoice; the cause of sound doctrine and piety will advance; and, at the cry of—*'the sword of the Lord and of Gideon!'*—all our enemies shall be put to flight.

"An inquiry of some importance has here occurred to the minds of your committee,—as to the individual or individuals who should undertake this work;—whether it should be the Pastor, or one of the Ruling-Elders in each church, or some other qualified person, whose sole business it should be, to attend to it! If the former would enlist, generally, in the work,

there can be no doubt but they would be the most appropriate. Experience, however, teaches us, that it is in vain to expect this, to any extent. There are many reasons, which need not here be stated, which shew, that, where such may desire to lend their aid, in this way, it is found to be impracticable. Your committee, then, are shut up to the conclusion, that we should depend, mainly, if not entirely, upon men, selected and paid, to circulate these books from house to house; and would, therefore, submit to the Synod, as expressive of their views, on this subject, the following resolutions; viz: *Resolved*,

"1. That the wants of our Board of Publication, as well as the interests of sound piety, in our respective congregations, demand, at our hands, prompt and efficient measures, for circulating among our people, the various publications issued by that Board.

"2. That, in the judgment of this Synod, the most effectual method by which this object can be accomplished, is, the system of Colportage.

"3. That this Synod proceed to take immediate steps, to secure the labours of a man, qualified to carry out the plan above contemplated.

"All which is respectfully submitted."

(Signed,) "JOHN A. GRETTER, "DRURY LACY, "ARCH'D BAKER. } Committee."

Agreeably to the recommendation contained in the foregoing report, The Rev'd Messrs. Simeon Colton and Adam Gilchrist, and Messrs. George McNeill, Jesse Brown, Dolphin A. Davis, J. W. Norwood, and W. S. Rankin, were appointed a committee, to carry into effect, the resolutions of this Synod, as contained in the conclusion of the foregoing report; and the following additional resolutions were adopted; viz:

1. *Resolved*, That the committee now appointed, be, and they hereby are authorized, to employ an Agent, to raise funds, for the purpose of accomplishing the trust committed to them.

2. *Resolved*, That the said committee be, and they hereby are directed to meet, immediately after the conclusion of the present Sessions of Synod, and make suitable arrangements for commencing operations, as soon as possible.

Adjourned to meet, at this place, on to-morrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M. Closed with prayer.

SATURDAY, 9th November, 1844.

Synod met, according to adjournment. Present as above. Opened with prayer. The minutes of yesterday were read.

The committee appointed to audit the account of the Treasurer of Synod, exhibited their report; which, being read, was approved, and ordered to be recorded, and is as follows, viz:

"Your committee report, that they find the account referred to them accurately prepared; shewing a balance, in the Treasurer's hands, of Seven dollars, and twenty eight cents."

"Respectfully submitted,"

(Signed,) "WM. N. PEACOCK, "JESSE BROWN, } Committee."

"The committee, to whom the Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Union Theological Seminary had been referred, exhibited their report; which, being read, was adopted; and is as follows; viz:

"The committee to whom was referred the Report of the Directors of the Union Theological Seminary, would call the attention of Synod to the following subjects, set forth in that document; viz:

"1. That there are so few young men within our bounds, who are preparing for the Gospel Ministry:

"2. The delinquency of the churches, in making up the quotas assessed upon them, by their respective Presbyteries: and

"3. The deficiency of Candidates for the Ministry, in their literary qualifications.

"Your committee cannot but view, with deep solicitude, the great disproportion of the youth of our churches, who are looking forward to the Ministry of the everlasting gospel, compared with the numbers who are members of those churches;—the small number who are seeking the Ministry, compared with that of a few years back;—and consequently, the utter inadequacy of a supply, for the ever-increasing demand for labourers in the gospel harvest.

"Nor can your committee look through the past year, without feelings of painful regret, on the lukewarmness of the churches, in delivering from her temporary and pressing embarrassment, that school of the prophets, founded in the piety and prayers of our Fathers; and which the church has so often solemnly pledged to sustain and cherish, for training our young men. Your committee would, moreover, direct the attention of Synod to the third point alluded to above; viz: the deficiency of Candidates, in their literary attainments.

"Whereupon, the committee present the following resolutions, viz:

"1. *Resolved*, That this Synod urge Christian parents, to consecrate their sons to the work of the Ministry; and Pastors, to turn the attention of pious young men to this subject; and, above all, does this Synod enjoin on all our ministers and people, that they pray, without ceasing, to the great Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth more labourers into his harvest.

"2. *Resolved*, That this Synod again require of the Presbyteries, before its next meeting, to collect, from the churches under their care, the sums assessed on them respectively, for relieving the Union Theological Seminary from its present embarrassment.

"3. *Resolved*, That, with a view of securing a higher standard of literary qualifications, on the part of our Ministry, this Synod earnestly recommend to the several Presbyteries composing it, to become more particular and rigid, in the examination of Candidates, on literature and science.

"All which is respectfully submitted."

(Signed,) "DRURY LACY, "ROBERT BURWEL, } Committee."

The committee appointed to make arrangements for the various religious exercises, to be observed, during the present Sessions of Synod, exhibited a scheme of their proposed arrangements; which, being read, was adopted; and is as follows; viz:

"The committee propose, that the religious exercises of the Synod com-

mence at 3 o'clock this afternoon; and recommend, that one hour be spent, in the following exercises; viz:

"1. Reading the scriptures and prayer,—conducted by The Rev'd Jacob Doll:

"2. Psalmody and Exhortation;—By The Rev'd Daniel Stratton:

"3. Psalmody and Exhortation;—By The Rev'd John M. M. Caldwell:

"4. Prayer and Psalmody;—By the Rev'd Andrew Y. Lockridge:

"5. The Apostolic Benediction;—By the Moderator of Synod.

"Respectfully submitted."

(Signed,) "ADAM GILCHRIST, "HENRY POTTER, } Committee."

The committee appointed to consider, whether any, and if any, what measure, or measures, ought to be adopted, by this Synod, for obtaining legal possession of the Legacy bequeathed to this Synod, by the Last Will and Testament of Mr. A. Lorantz, late of Iredell County, deceased, exhibited their report; which, being read, was adopted; and is as follows; viz:

"The committee to whom was referred, the subject of a Legacy, given by Abraham Lorantz, late of Iredell County, to the Trustees of the Synod of North Carolina, respectfully report,

"That, upon inquiry, they find, that Abraham Lorantz, late of Iredell County, in his Last Will and Testament, after directing a sale of his property, and making some specific legacies, says, '*It is, then, my will, that the balance, or remaining part of my estate, or money arising from the aforesaid sales, should be vested in the hands of the Trustees of the Synod of North Carolina, to the end, that it may further the promulgation of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ:*' That Joseph P. Caldwell has administered on the estate of the said Testator, with the will annexed;—has made sales of the personal property, and paid off the special Legacies;—has, in his hands, a small balance of money, the proceeds of said sales; and there is still a tract of land unsold:—But, there being no Trustees of Synod, the committee recommend, that three suitable persons be appointed Trustees of the Synod of North Carolina, with full powers to them and their successors in office, to receive, take charge of, and manage to the best advantage, and account to Synod for, according to law, all moneys, property, and estate, belonging, or which may accrue and enure to the said Synod; and especially to liquidate and settle with the said administrator, for and concerning the said residuary Legacy; to advise and act with him in the sale of the said Tract of land;—to demand and receive all moneys and other estate which may be embraced in the said residuary Legacy, for the use and purpose mentioned in the said devise or bequest;—that they give all proper receipts and acquittances for the same; and hold the said moneys and property, subject to the further order of this Synod; and that they make full report, in the premises, to this Synod, at its next Stated Sessions."

"Respectfully submitted."

(Signed) "H. POTTER, Chairman of the Committee."

"Nov'r 9th, 1844.

Agreeably to the recommendation contained in the preceding report, Synod appointed the Rev'd John M. Wilson, Col. Thomas A. Allison, and Dolphin Alston Davis, Esq., as Trustees of this Synod, for the several purposes above specified.

Agreeably to the order of the day, The Rev'd Joseph Mahon, an accredited Agent of the General Assembly's Board of Missions, was heard, on the subject of his Agency.

The committee to whom the communication from The Rev'd Wm. A. McDowell, D. D., on the subject of Domestic Missions, had been referred, with direction to embrace, in their report thereon, an account of the present exertions of the several Presbyteries composing this Synod, in the Domestic Missionary cause, exhibited their report; which, being read, considered, and amended, was adopted; and is as follows; viz:

"The committee appointed to take into consideration, the subject of Domestic Missions, beg leave to submit the following report.

"Whereas it appears, that great diversity exists, in the action of the Presbyteries, on the subject of Domestic Missions; and whereas it is very desirable, that the whole church should unite, in one system of operations; and whereas this Synod has entire confidence in, and a sincere affection for, the General Assembly's Board of Missions: Therefore, "*Resolved*,

"1. That it be, and it hereby is, earnestly recommended to all the Presbyteries composing this Synod, to become directly auxiliary to the General Assembly's Board of Missions.

"2. That it be, and it hereby is, further recommended to each of the said Presbyteries, to appoint a standing, corresponding, Executive Committee of Domestic Missions; who shall be authorised to recommend Missionaries, designate their fields of labour, receive funds for their support, suggest the amount to be paid to each, and report, annually, their doings, to their respective Presbyteries, and to the Board.

"3. That the Assembly's Board issue all commissions, and draw on the Treasurer of each Presbytery for such sums of money as may have been stipulated for the support of the Missionaries employed, so far as the Missionary funds in the hands of the respective Treasurers will admit;—it being understood, that any deficiency which may exist in the Missionary fund of any of the said Presbyteries, is to be supplied by the said Board; and that, when, in the Missionary fund of any of the said Presbyteries, there is a surplus over and above what may be due to the Missionaries employed, such surplus, shall be deposited in the Treasury of the said Board.

"4. That the General Assembly's Board be respectfully requested, to send, occasionally, into the bounds of this Synod, such Agent or Agents as they may consider necessary, for raising the funds needful, to carry into execution, their benevolent plans.

"5. That it be earnestly recommended to the churches within the bounds of our Synod, to receive the aforesaid Agents cordially.

"6. That it be, and it hereby is, recommended to each of the Presbyteries of this Synod, to appoint, from their number, a Missionary Agent, whose duty it shall be, when the Agent of the Board is not in the field, either personally or by correspondence with the Pastors and Sessions, to see that the subject is presented, annually, to all the Churches, for their liberal support.

"7. That the "Missionary Chronicle" be recommended, as well worthy of the patronage of our churches.

"With reference to the operations of the Presbyteries of this Synod, on this subject, your committee report,

"1. That the Presbytery of Orange has employed one Missionary, located in the County of Orange; and raises between four and five hundred dollars for the cause; and that the Missionary field, within the limits of that Presbytery, is large and inviting.

"2. That the Presbytery of Concord has employed three Missionaries:—one located in Macon County; one in Buncombe; and one in McDowell; that these Missionaries are supported, in part, by the people among whom they labour; and that, for the balance of their respective salaries, the Presbytery is responsible; that the said Presbytery has, during the past year, raised between six and seven hundred dollars, for the cause; and that four or five other Missionaries are urgently called for, to supply the destitute, in places presenting a favourable prospect of building up new churches.

"3. That the Presbytery of Fayetteville had one Missionary employed, during the past year, at a Salary of Four Hundred Dollars; which sum is raised by the Presbytery; and that a large extent of country is presented, as Missionary ground, promising an ample reward to faithful Missionary labour."

"All which is respectfully submitted."

(Signed,) "JOHN M. WILSON, "ELIJAH F. ROCKWELL, "ROBERT BURWELL, "EVANDER McNAIR, "JOHN R. McINTOSH, "HENRY POTTER, "JESSE BROWN, } Committee."

The committee to whom the records of the Presbytery of Fayetteville had been referred, exhibited their report; which, being read, considered, and amended, was adopted; and is as follows; viz:

"The committee appointed to examine the records of the Presbytery of Fayetteville beg leave to report, that they have attended to the duty assigned to them;—that they find the said records neatly and accurately kept; and recommend, that the book be approved, up to Page 118, with the following exceptions; viz:

"1. In the first resolution, on the subject of the quorum question, recorded upon Page 86, the Presbytery express the opinion, that a Presbytery cannot be constituted in the absence of Ruling-Elders, in opposition to the expressed views of the Assembly, on that subject.

"2. And again: In the third resolution, on the subject of the imposition of hands, in the ordination of Ministers, the opinion is expressed, that Ruling-Elders, while sitting in Presbytery, are entitled to take part in laying hands upon Ministers, in their ordination; which opinion, your committee regard, as in opposition to the recently expressed views of the General Assembly."

"Respectfully submitted."

(Signed,) "CYRUS JOHNSTON, "JOHN F. PHIFER, } Committee."

The committee appointed to take into consideration the Bible cause, exhibited their report; which, being read, was adopted; and is as follows; viz:

"The committee appointed to take into consideration the Bible cause, beg leave to submit the following report.

"Your committee think it unnecessary to recommend the adoption of any new resolutions, on this subject; inasmuch as the Synod, at their last Stated Sessions, were sufficiently pointed, in the expression of their views, relative to this interesting cause; and as any additional resolutions, could only be a useless repetition. Your committee, however, think, that some notice of this subject should be taken, at the present Sessions, for the benefit of those brethren, who have been, heretofore, inactive, in the promotion of this noble cause.

"The Agent, who has been labouring within our bounds, gives encouraging intelligence, as regards his success in carrying on his work; while, at the same time, he mourns over the destitution of the Word of life, which he daily finds, among the different orders of society: and, from all that your committee can learn, from different sources,—from the progress of this good work,—from the alarming destitution of the Word of God, in almost every neighbourhood visited by the Agent,—and from the increasing willingness of the people, to act promptly and efficiently in this holy cause, your committee respectfully recommend to Synod, the propriety of inviting the particular attention of their people to this important subject; and that it be urged upon each Pastor, to co-operate with the other christian denominations in our land, in the promotion of the Bible cause.

"Respectfully submitted."

(Signed,) "DANIEL A. PENICK, "ARCH'D BAKER, "JESSE BROWN, } Committee."

At 3 o'clock, P. M., according to the arrangement proposed by the committee appointed for the purpose, Synod spent some time in devotional exercises. These exercises were solemn and interesting; and, it is hoped, were found spiritually profitable.

The committee appointed to prepare a connected summary of the information received, touching the progress of religion in the several churches under the care of this Synod, submitted their draft of said summary; which, being read, was adopted; and is as follows; viz:

"*Narrative of the state of religion*, presented by the Synod of North Carolina, to the churches under their care.

"Christian Brethren,

"Whatever relates to the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, is dear to the hearts of all his sincere followers. With feelings of deep anxiety, we received the Annual Reports of the churches within our bounds, recounting the dealings of God's providence towards them, and all those events and circumstances, which affect their spiritual condition. And, as your first attention is naturally directed to the religious history of the past year, we herewith lay before you, a general statement of the information received by us, and expected by you. These reports, considered in the *general* tone of their statements, as to the interests of religion, may be reduced to two classes.

"1. A small class of them address us in the language of humiliation and despondency; and speak of the cause of religion, as depressed and discouraging. While harmony, and peace, and an outward attention to the ordinances of God's house and the duties of religion exist; and a feeble, languid co-operation, in behalf of the benevolent operations of the church, is

given;—lukewarmness, worldly-mindedness, and inactivity prevail. Christians do not sufficiently distinguish themselves from the people of the world; the vital warmth of piety is wanting; and family religion is suffered to decline. It would appear also, that the suspension of the influences of God's Holy Spirit; the loss, by death, of unusually large numbers of the most active and enterprizing members of our churches; with other forms of providential trial and rebuke, have not produced any adequate humiliation, repentance, and sanctifying effects, among the children of God; but that 'the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches,' the conformity of many to fashionable amusements, and the great neglect of the means of promoting vital godliness, still continue to prevail.

"2. A larger class of reports from the churches, present a more encouraging picture of their spiritual condition. These speak of considerable, and, in a few cases, of unusual additions to the churches. Others mention an increased attendance upon the public ordinances of God's house, and a growing attachment to social meetings for prayer and other devotional exercises. In the absence of any general revival,—excepting in the church of Haw-fields, in the Presbytery of Orange, where God has graciously poured out his Spirit, with mighty power,—God's people have experienced solemn and joyful seasons of refreshing; and a gradual accession of members has followed. United in mutual confidence and affection, Pastors and people have preserved 'the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace'; and an encouraging attention to the word spoken, has marked the dispensation of the gospel. Congregations have been strengthened and increased in numbers; houses of public worship have been erected, or are in the progress of erection; ministers have been diligent and faithful in their work; and prayer-meetings, Bible classes, Sabbath Schools, and Catechetical instruction, have been well sustained; and are increasing.

"From the reports which we have received, we cannot doubt, that the benevolent schemes of the church are gaining a gradual, yet a firmer and deeper hold, on the hearts and affections of our people. Though the benevolent contributions of some of our churches, during the past year, have been diminished, we are disposed to attribute this rather to some adventitious circumstances affecting them temporarily, than to any diminution of interest in those great objects of christian charity. We are, however, far from having attained that standard in free and generous liberality, which would make us feel it to be our distinguished privilege, as well as our bounden duty, to regard ourselves as the stewards of God, in advancing his cause, in the world.

From authentic sources of information received by us, you will learn, and doubtless, with the same grief that we have felt, that the Candidates for the Gospel Ministry within our bounds, are fewer in number than in former years. Whatever may be the cause of this diminution, the fact is alarming; and should be seriously pondered, by our churches and Presbyteries. We urge you, Dear Brethren, to renew your prayers to the great Lord of the Harvest, that He would send forth more labourers into his Harvest. The moment that our supply of Ministers is lessened, our Missionary efforts must be crippled. The charity of the church is in a healthful state, only when there is a simultaneous and harmonious growth of all its dependent parts. It becomes us, therefore, to watch, and labour, and

pray. that pious young men, who are called of God unto this work, should be trained for the Ministry of our church.

"The Synod advert, with pleasure, to the uniformity with which the churches, in their reports, speak of an increased and growing attention, to Sabbath school, Biblical, and Cathechetical instruction. The doctrines and the Spirit of that form of Christianity, which is drawn from the Bible, and embodied in our Catechisms, are the power of God to salvation, the life of the church, and the glory of our Nation. In these precious and holy doctrines, in their living power, our children and youth must be trained up, if we would hope for a generation of men, suited to the times in which they will be called to act, in the church of God. In many of our churches, where the religious instruction of children had been formerly entrusted entirely to the Sabbath schools, they are now regularly assembled, by Ministers and Ruling-Elders, for the purpose of catechetical instruction; and, in many families, there has been a revival of the blessed and time honoured practice, of communicating instruction, on every Sabbath evening, in the formularies of our church.

"This leads us to draw your attention to another subject of deep interest, viz: the religious instruction of our slaves: Particular reference is had to this matter, in nearly every report from the churches of the Presbytery of Fayetteville: yet, from every quarter, an increasing interest is manifested, in the spiritual interest of our slave population; and cheering assurance is given, that these labours, for their benefit, are not in vain, in the Lord. The Pastor of a church in the Presbytery of Fayetteville reports, that his coloured congregation has more than quadrupled, during the past year; and, in several of the churches in this Presbytery, larger congregations of coloured persons than of white, are regularly assembled, to receive religious instruction.

"Of the progress of the Temperance cause, we have received various reports, from the churches. In some places, it is advancing, with a steady progress; while, in others, it appears to be on the decline: and this decline, we believe, is to be ascribed more to the culpable apathy of its friends, than to the opposition of its enemies. On the whole, we have reason to fear, that this important interest is less thriving than it has been in former years. Whatever difference of opinion may exist, among the friends of this great cause, as to the best means of promoting the end at which they aim, there can be no doubt, that it is the duty of the church, with diligence and prayer, to apply, to the correction of the evils of intemperance, the truth which God has committed to her, for the salvation of men.

"During the past year, some of our brethren beloved in the Lord, and an unusually large number of our most devoted and influential private members, have been called from their earthly labours, to enter on their eternal reward. This statement falls, with solemn import, on our ears, as memory recalls the dear and honoured fellow-labourers, some of them while yet in the prime and strength and vigour of manhood, who have closed their earthly career, and are consigned to the silent tomb. The voice of persuasive eloquence, has ceased;—the greeting hand of friendship, is outstretched no more; and the counsels, and prayers, and labours of life, are for ever ended. Let us all consider, Dear Brethren, how soon our own

lips may be sealed in death; and what our hands find to do, let us do with all our might, while it is yet day; for the night cometh, when no man can work."

The following resolution, submitted by the committee on the Narrative, was unanimously adopted; viz:

Resolved, That the first Monday of February ensuing, be set apart, as a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer for the out-pouring of the Spirit of God, to be observed by all the churches within the bounds of this Synod.

The following resolutions were also adopted; viz:

Resolved, That each Church, or union or association of churches constituting a Pastoral charge, and each church, or union or association of churches enjoying the labours of a Minister as a stated supply, under the jurisdiction of this Synod, be required, henceforth, to pay into the hands of the Treasurer of its own Presbytery, the sum of fifty cents, annually; and that the Treasurers of the several Presbyteries, pay over the said contributions to the Treasurer of this Synod, to meet the contingent expenses of Synod.

Resolved, That the Minutes of this Synod, hereafter, be published, in pamphlet-form; and that a sufficient number of copies thereof be printed, to furnish each Minister with a copy, and also to supply all the Eldership entitled to seats in Synod, each with a copy.

The Stated Clerk of Synod, together with Messrs. George McNeill, James Martine, and John McArn, were appointed a committee to carry the above resolution into effect, in reference to the Minutes of the present Sessions.

The following Minute was submitted; and being read, was adopted; viz:

Whereas the Histories of the State of North Carolina that have heretofore been published, are imperfect and incomplete;—whereas there is reason to believe, that there are various and important documents connected with the early History of Carolina, deposited in the Colonial department of the Archives of the British Government, at London; and whereas the British Government have given liberal assurances of a willingness to allow copies of these documents to be taken;—therefore,

Resolved, That a respectful memorial, from this body, be presented to the Legislature of this State, about to assemble, praying that they may take this subject into their consideration, and make provision for sending an Agent to England, to collect such materials as may there be found, that will be of service, in compiling a correct History of this State.

Resolved, That, inasmuch as The Hon. David L. Swain has, for some time, turned his attention to this subject, has collected many rare and valuable documents, and is familiar with the History of this State, it be respectfully suggested to the Legislature, that he be appointed as such Agent; and that provision be made to sustain his expenses; and further, that, when he shall have collected suitable materials, he be requested to compile and publish a complete History of this State.

The Moderator, and Stated Clerk of Synod, and The Hon. Henry Potter, were appointed a Committee to prepare a Memorial, conformable to the above resolutions; and it was Ordered, that said Memorial be signed by the Moderator and Stated Clerk; and, thus authenticated, that it be duly forwarded to the Legislature.

The following is the Memorial, prepared by the Committee appointed for the purpose; viz:

"*To the Hon. The General Assembly of the State of North Carolina.*

"The Memorial of the Synod of North Carolina,

respectfully represents,

"That all the Histories of North Carolina which have been heretofore published are imperfect and incomplete; that the two first were very limited, and seem to have been written, rather for the promotion of private ends, than as a faithful narrative of facts, up to the time of writing. Williamson's and Martin's are more full; yet, are obviously incomplete, as they do not contain many important facts, in relation to the early settlements, and to their progress in the State. A well digested and complete History of the State, is, therefore, a desideratum; which, your memorialists think, every good citizen will desire to attain. To complete such a History will require, for collecting and arranging the documents, more time and expense, than any person, in his individual capacity, could be expected to appropriate to this purpose.

"Your Memorialists have learned, that your Honourable Body have been certified, that there are, in the Colonial Office at London, a large amount of documents that will be of material service in compiling such a History as is wanted; and that the British Government has signified its willingness, that copies of these documents may be taken. Your Memorialists, therefore, beg leave to ask, that an Agent be commissioned to go to England, and there procure copies of such papers, and collect such information, as he may deem important, in compiling a History of the State; and that provision be made, by the Legislature, for defraying the expenses of such Agent, while engaged in making the collection.

"Your Memorialists also beg leave, further to represent, that, as it is generally understood, that The Hon. David L. Swain, President of the University, has, for some time past, turned his attention, extensively, to this subject; has collected many valuable documents; and is familiar with the History of the State, he be commissioned, as this Agent; and that he also be requested to prosecute the work; and, when he shall have collected suitable materials, to compile and publish a full and complete History of the State, coming down as near to the present time as he may think expedient. The relations now subsisting between our Government and that of Great Britain are such, as your Memorialists are led to consider as rendering the present a peculiarly favourable time, for collecting, in that country, the materials desired. Your Memorialists also beg leave to suggest, that, in sending out the Head of the University, for the purpose specified, you will do what, in many ways, will be serviceable to the State, both in relation to its literature and history. Believing that the person named is peculiarly qualified for the purpose specified, and entertaining, as they do, a deep sense of the importance of having a good History of the State, your Memorialists beg leave to present this subject to the consideration of your Honourable Body; praying that you, in your wisdom, may see fit to make provision to carry into execution the different objects for which your Memorialists have prayed."

"And your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray."

(Signed,) "SIMEON COLTON, Moderator.
"COLIN McIVER, Stated Clerk.

The Stated Clerk submitted a Synodical Report to the General Assembly, grounded on the Annual Reports of the Presbyteries to this Synod, which, being read, was adopted, and ordered to be recorded; and is as follows; viz:

"The Synod of North Carolina report to the General Assembly, that they consist of Three Presbyteries; and that these Presbyteries, consist, in whole, of Seventy-eight members; having, under their care, One hundred and thirty-seven congregations, nine licentiates, and nineteen candidates; viz:

Presbyteries.	Ministers.	Congregations.	Licentiates.	Candidates.
1...Orange	27	40	1	8
2...Concord	31	52	3	4
3...Fayetteville.	20	45	5	7
Total	78	137	9	19

"The Synod further reports, that, within the past year, its Presbyteries have ordained three Ministers; two as Pastors, and one as an Evangelist; licensed five probationers; transferred, from one Presbytery to another within the Synod, one licentiate; instituted, in three instances, the Pastoral relation, by the solemnity of installation, in cases in which the Ministers had been previously ordained; dismissed one Minister and two licentiates, to be connected with other Presbyteries; dissolved one Pastoral relation; and lost, by death, four Ministers: and that their next Synodical Sessions is to be held in the Presbyterian Church, in the town of Charlotte, in the County of Mecklenburg and State of North Carolina, to commence on Friday, the 7th of November, 1845, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

"By order of the Synod."

(Signed,) "COLIN McIVER, Stated Clerk.

Fayetteville, N. C., Saturday, 9th Nov'r, 1844.

The following resolution was submitted; and being read, was unanimously adopted; viz:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Synod be tendered to the citizens of Fayetteville, for their kindness and hospitality to its members, during its present Sessions; and also to those churches of other denominations, who have opened their Houses of Worship, and their Pulpits, to the Ministers of this Synod, in the course of the present meeting.

Adjourned, to meet, in the Presbyterian Church, in the Town of Charlotte, in the County of Mecklenburg and State of North Carolina, on Friday the 7th of November 1845, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with Prayer, the Christian Doxology, and the Apostolic Benediction.